

## 8 Gulf of Alaska Pacific ocean perch (Executive Summary)

Dana Hanselman, Jonathan Heifetz, Jeffrey T. Fujioka, and James N. Ianelli  
November 2006

### 8.1 Introduction

Rockfish have been moved to a biennial stock assessment schedule to coincide with new survey data. For Gulf of Alaska rockfish in alternate (even) years we will present an executive summary using the current year's key assessment parameters and projections for the next (odd) year. A discussion at the September 2006 Groundfish Plan Team meetings concluded the following two important points for updating information in off-year assessments:

- 1) Anytime the assessment model is re-run and presented in the SAFE Report, a full assessment document must be produced.
- 2) The single-species projection model may be re-run using new catch data without re-running the assessment model.

Therefore, as opposed to 2004, we will not be running the assessment model with updated catch data, but will run the projection model with updated catch data. This satisfies the above recommendations and accounts for changes in catch from last year's estimates. We present results from last year's projection with this year's projection for comparison. Both projections are based on the 2005 assessment model results. For further information about the assessment model, last year's full stock assessment is on the web (Hanselman et al. 2005, <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2005/GOAPOP.pdf>).

### 8.2 Updated catch and projection

New information for this year's projection is updated 2005 catch at 11,272 mt and the best estimate of the 2006 catch at 13,654 mt. Last year's estimates were 11,356 mt and 11,930 mt for 2005 and 2006, respectively. Substantially more POP were caught than expected due to good market conditions. For the 2007 fishery, we recommend the maximum allowable ABC of 14,636 mt from the updated projection. This ABC is similar to last year's ABC of 14,261 mt, but slightly less than last year's projection due to the increased catch in 2006. The corresponding reference values for Pacific ocean perch are summarized in the following table, with the recommended values in bold. The stock is not overfished, nor is it approaching overfishing status.

	Last year's projection: Not Updated		This year's projection: Updated*	
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
$B_{40\%}$ (mt)	90,022	--	90,022	--
Female Spawning Biomass (mt)	93,108	95,185	94,257	94,962
$F_{ABC}$ (maximum allowable = $F_{40\%}$ )	0.062	0.062	<b>0.062</b>	0.062
$F_{OFL}$ ( $F_{35\%}$ )	0.074	0.074	<b>0.074</b>	0.074
$ABC_{F40\%}$ (mt yield at $F_{40\%=F_{max}}$ )	14,261	14,726	<b>14,636</b>	14,797
OFL (mt, yield at $F_{35\%}$ )	16,927	17,152	<b>17,157</b>	17,345

\*Estimated catch for 2006 is from the AK Regional Office website on 10/15/06. Estimated catch for 2007 is maximum permissible ABC, as the 2006 catch has diverged from past recent ratios of catch to ABC.

### 8.3 Area Apportionment

The apportionment percentages are identical to last year, because there is no new survey information. The following table shows the recommended apportionment for 2007.

	Western	Central	Eastern	Total
Area Apportionment	29%	52%	19%	100%
Area ABC (mt)	<b>4,244</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>14,636</b>
Area OFL (mt)	4,976	8,922	3,260	17,157

Amendment 41 prohibited trawling in the Eastern area east of 140° W longitude. The ratio of biomass still obtainable in the W. Yakutat area (between 147° W and 140° W) is the same as last year at 0.41. This results in the following apportionment to the W. Yakutat area:

ABC (mt)	1,140
OFL (mt)	1,352

which would leave a potential of 1,640 mt of ABC east of 140° W longitude unharvested.

## 8.4 Research Priorities

This year a rockfish modeling workshop was held at the Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL) that included participants from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), Alaska Regional Office, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Additionally, a Center for Independent Experts (CIE) review of rockfish assessment occurred at the AFSC in June. A workshop summary and formal CIE review report are available online on the AFSC website (<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Quarterly/amj2006/divrptsABL1.htm>, and [http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2006/rf\\_CIE.pdf](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/refm/docs/2006/rf_CIE.pdf), respectively). Our priorities for next year's full assessment are to consider incorporating many of the useful recommendations produced by both the workshop and the review.

It is critically important to the assessment of rockfish species that the GOA trawl surveys extend into deeper waters (>200m) in order to cover the range of primary habitat for rockfish.

## 8.5 Summaries for Plan Team

Species	Year	Biomass <sup>1</sup>	OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch
Pacific ocean perch	2005	286,367	16,266	13,575	13,575	11,272
	2006	312,968	16,927	14,261	14,261	13,745 <sup>2</sup>
	2007	315,507	17,157	14,636		
	2008		17,345	14,797		

<sup>1</sup>Total biomass from the age-structured model

Stock/ Assemblage	Area	2006				2007		2008	
		OFL	ABC	TAC	Catch <sup>2</sup>	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Pacific ocean perch	W	4,931	4,155	4,155	4,199	4,976	4,244	5,030	4,291
	C	8,806	7,418	7,418	8,288	8,922	7,612	9,019	7,694
	WYAK		1,101	1,101	1,258		1,140		1,153
	SEO		1,587	1,587	0		1,640		1,659
	E	3,190	2,688	2,688		3,260	2,780	3,296	2,811
	Total		16,927	14,261	14,261	13,745	17,157	14,636	17,345

<sup>2</sup>Current as of November 4, 2006 ([http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2006/car110\\_goa.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/2006/car110_goa.pdf))